

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: September 7, 2022

To: Senior High School Principals and Associate Principals; Area Superintendents

Subject: STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN COMMENCEMENT AND OTHER SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Department and/or Persons Concerned: Senior High School Principals, Associate Principals, Counselors, Area Superintendents, and High School Registrars

References: [Administrative Regulation 6146.1](#) & [5121](#)

Due Date: August through June

Action Requested: Review timelines and protocols, implement and communicate to students/families

Brief Explanation:

This circular provides clear and consistent expectations for participation of seniors in commencement and other senior activities for the 2022-23 school year.

General Overview

Per Administrative Regulation 6146.1 section 14. (a.) “As a representative of the Board of Education, the principal shall designate those individuals who may participate in commencement ceremonies, approve the content of the program, and make all related decisions. Student participation is not required, but every eligible graduate who wishes to participate must adhere to the principal and school commencement ceremony rules if participation is to be approved. Any student who agrees to be a participant and then fails to follow the principal’s direction is subject to disciplinary action.” Administrative Regulation 6146.1 addresses the following specific requirements for participation in commencement activities:

- Attain a cumulative weighted grade point average (WGPA) of 2.0 or higher in grades 9-12
- Earn a minimum of 44 semester credits
- Meet district adopted UC “a-g” graduation requirements
- Maintain a minimum of 2.0 in citizenship (Administrative Regulation 5121) based on quarter one (Q1), quarter 2 (Q2), semester 1 (S1), and quarter three (Q3), and the grading period prior to graduation:
 - No five-day suspensions during senior year unless cleared by School Site Appeal Committee
 - Seniors may be denied participation in commencement ceremony (and other senior activities) for suspensions of fewer than five days during their senior year, at the discretion of the principal
 - Decisions of the School Site Appeal Committee are final

- Students with disabilities receiving special education service may be exempt from this requirement [For more information, refer to AR 6146.1]
- Class of 2022 fifth-year students qualify for meeting the minimum CA State requirements under AB 104.

Site Responsibilities

In the interest of ensuring equity for all SDUSD students, it is important for sites across all district school sites to have clear and consistent expectations for student conduct and behavior as they relate to participation in commencement and other senior activities such as prom and senior breakfast:

To Earn a Diploma	To Walk in Graduation	To attend prom and other senior activities
44 semester credits in required courses	Meet the expectations for a diploma or certificate of completion per AR 6146.1.	Meet the expectations for a diploma or certificate of completion per AR 6146.1.
Meet district adopted UC “a-g” graduation requirements	Clear senior year truancies, unverified or unexcused absences three weeks before school is dismissed*	Clear senior year truancies, unverified or unexcused absences three weeks before school is dismissed*
Maintain an overall academic WGPA of 2.0 or higher in grades 9-12	Maintain a minimum 2.0 in citizenship*	Have no truancies, unverified or unexcused absences during the last three weeks of school*
	No suspensions in the second semester*	Maintain a minimum 2.0 in citizenship*
	No five-day suspensions during the school year*	No suspensions in Q3, Q4, S2 or P4*
	No involvement in senior pranks*	No five-day suspensions during the school year*
	Complete any iHigh courses needed to meet graduation requirements by June 8, 2023.	No involvement in senior pranks*

*Right to be cleared to attend by Site Appeal Committee

Bold = Required in AR 6146.1

Approved Graduation Attire Beyond Cap & Gown:

- 1) Academic Distinction: Cords or Tassels
- 2) CSF Cords
- 3) Traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as an adornment
- 4) On-Campus Site Approved Club & Organizations: Cords, Pins, Sashes (i.e. ASB, JROTC)

In order to be fair to students and families, district graduation requirements as well as site-specific requirements must be clearly and consistently articulated to all students and parents with sufficient opportunity for remediation, when possible. It is the responsibility of the site

administrators to keep parents informed in a timely manner so that family disappointments are avoidable whenever possible.

To ensure that expectations for students are clear and consistent the following timeline is encouraged:

September-December:

- Principals or associate principals should discuss expectations/requirements directly with all seniors in a general meeting
- Principals or associate principals should discuss expectations/requirements directly with all parents/guardians of seniors in a general meeting, preferably at Open House
- A letter should be sent home with seniors for parents/guardians signature (with accompanying auto-dialer phone message and email to parents)

January-February:

- Signed letters (by parents/guardians) should be collected and placed in a binder. Site administrators should communicate with parents for letters not returned.
- Periodic follow-up auto-dialer phone messages and emails should be sent to parents. (The current auto-dialer system logs all calls and emails so site administrators can see who has received the information and “follow-up” with parents not contacted.) Assigned site personnel should document “follow-up” communication with log of dates and persons contacted

March-April

- Select staff to sit on committee to review appeals and schedule appeal dates

May-June

- Make final decision(s) on which student(s) will not participate in senior activities and/or commencement.

High expectations for appropriate student conduct are not only fair but also reasonable if students are to be prepared as responsible citizens who understand consequences for irresponsible and inappropriate behavior. It is also appropriate that students and their families be given every opportunity to meet these expectations by making the requirements clear and consistent from the beginning of the school year.

For additional information, contact Operations Specialist Veronica Ortega (vortegal@sandi.net) or Sharon Rubalcava (srubalcava@sandi.net), Counseling & Guidance Department.

APPROVED:



Nicole DeWitt
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